infection comprising the steps of obtaining a biological sample from a subject at risk of, or suspected to be suffering from, *Candida* infection, contacting the sample with a mannose depleted antigen composition comprising a soluble cytoplasmic antigen preparation comprising antigens of molecular weight 55 kDa, 30 kDa and 20 kDa and detecting the antigen/antibody reaction.---

In the Claims

NE LANGUAGE "SS" entered ✓ For claims 1-8, 13-15 and 17, please substitute the following new claims 18-37.

18. (New) A method of diagnosing *Candida* infection, comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a biological sample from a subject at risk of, or suspected to be suffering from, *Candida* infection;

b) preparing an antigen composition comprising a soluble cytoplasmic antigen preparation which is mannose depleted and comprises antigens for detecting antibodies to *Candida* of molecular weights 55 kDa, 30 kDa and 20 kDa;

c) contacting said antigen composition with said biological sample; and

d) using a detection system to determine if antibodies from the biological sample are bound to said antigen composition.

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19. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the antigen composition further comprises one or more antigens selected from the group consisting of cell wall and enolase antigen.

20. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein step d) is a detection system selected from the group consisting of enzyme-linked immunoassay (ELISA or EIA), biligand binding (sandwich technique), fluorometric assay, chemiluminescent assay, radialimmunodiffusion and radioimmunoassay (RIA).

21. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein step d) is by ELISA or chemiluminescent assay.

22. (New) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of binding the antigen composition to a solid phase either by adsorptive binding, covalent binding, or via a ligand already bound to the solid phase.

23. (New) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of using secondary labelled antibodies to detect the antibodies to *Candida* present in the biological samples.

24. (New) A method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of labelling the secondary antibodies with a label selected from the group consisting of fluorescent dye, radioisotope and enzyme, or combinations thereof.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein the secondary antibody is labelled via bound ligands.

26. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein detection in the detection system is selected from the group consisting of colour development, chemiluminescence, fluorescence and radioactivity, or combinations thereof.

27. (New) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of performing the detection of antibodies by a method selected from the group consisting of qualitative detection and quantitative detection or combination thereof.

28. (New) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of directly labelling the secondary antibody.

29. (New) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of indirectly labelling the secondary antibody.

30. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the antigen composition is either immobilised on an inert surface, embedded in a gel, or conjugated to a molecule.

31. (New) A method according to claim 30, wherein the molecule imparts colour, fluorescence or radioactivity to the antigen.

32. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of bone marrow, plasma, spinal fluid, lymph fluid, skin, tears, saliva, milk, blood, serum, blood cells, tumours and organs.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein the skin consists of external sections selected from the group consisting of respiratory, intestinal, and genitourinary tracts.

34. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein the biological sample is serum.

35. (New) A kit when used for detecting the presence or absence of a *Candida* antibody in a biological sample, comprising:

a). a biological sample collection device;

b). an antigen composition comprising a soluble cytoplasmic antigen preparation which is mannose depleted and comprises antigens for detecting antibodies to *Candida* of molecular weights 55 kDa, 30 kDa and 20 kDa;

c). means for detecting reaction between the antibody in the sample and antigen composition.

36. (New) A kit according to claim 33, further comprising buffering agents and ionic salts.

37. (New) An antigen composition comprising a soluble cytoplasmic antigen preparation which is mannose depleted and comprises antigens for detecting antibodies to *Candida* of 55 kDa, 30 kDa and 20 kDa.